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A Search for the Masked Tawareks. By W. J. Harding King. 334 pp., 41 Illustrations, Map and Index. Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1903. (Price, 12 sh.)

Mr. King contributes a new spelling of the word commonly written Tuareg in English, because he thinks the form Tawarek most nearly represents the correct pronunciation; but he saw very few Tuaregs, and is he certain that the spelling he uses represents the prevailing pronunciation? It is confusing to multiply spellings of a name; and a form practically settled in general usage should not be disturbed without the best of reasons.

The book does not disclose the time of Mr. King's journey into the Sahara, but it was evidently some time before the recent military expeditions of Lieut. Cotteneat and Capt. Laperrine to the Hoggar mountains proved, apparently, that the Tuaregs are really very weak in numbers and in fighting power, though hitherto supposed to be formidable. Mr. King shows that they are widely scattered over the Sahara; but all the evidence collected in the past two years is to the effect that they can offer no serious opposition to foreign occupancy since the French have learned the art of rapid desert travelling.

Mr. King's journey extended only from Biskra to Wargla, and then northeast to El Wad, where he finally caught his Tuaregs. He learned little that has not been told by Duveyrier and later writers. He was able, however, to secure some photographs of men and women. Other fine pictures illustrate desert travel, and life in the Saha an towns and oases. The vivacious narrative gives the book a fascinating quality, and conveys an excellent idea of the oases regions to the south of Biskra.

A Handbook of Modern Japan. By Ernest W. Clement. Maps and Illustrations. 395 pp. Index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1903. (Price, \$1.50.)

This work, as its title indicates, is not a book of travel or of geographical description. Its topics relate to the Japan of the present in its material, intellectual, political, and other aspects. It is not encyclopædic, but gives a clear idea of the things that are most important in the life of the individual and the nation. The reader will be helped by it to understand the moving impulses in all phases of Japan's activities. The specialist will not discover in the book all the material he needs, but at the end of each chapter are full references to the best sources of more complete